

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /073 W

-----019743 291310Z /45

R 290757Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3167

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2551

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDIP

SUBJ: NEWLY-APPOINTED MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA,  
DATUK AHMAD ZAINAL ABIDIN BIN MOHAMED USOF

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT DATUK AHMAD ZAINAL ABIDIN BIN MOHAMAD YUSOF, CURRENTLY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (POLICIAL AND INFORMATION) OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HAS BEEN APPOINTED MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA. DATUK ZAINAL, 52, IS ONE OF THE VETERANS OF THE MALAYSIAN ADMINISTRATIVE AND DIPLOMATIC SERVICE. SINCE JOINING THE SERVICE IN 1957, DATUK ZAINAL HAS SERVED IN LONDON (1958-59), PARIS (1959-62), SAIGON (1963-65), RABAT (1965-67), MOSCOW (1968-70), AND AS AMBASSADOR TO IRAN (1970-72) AND TO THE PHILIPPINES (1972-74). HE WAS THEN NAMED DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (ECONOMIC) OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, A POST HE HELD UNTIL 1976, AT WHICH TIME HE BECAME DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (POLITICAL AND INFORMATION). DESPITE ZAINAL'S POISTION IN THE MINISTRY, EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH HIM DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS. HOWEVER, HE HAS GIVEN THE IMPRESSION OF BEING FRIENDLY AND WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND TOWARD AMERICAN SIN GENERAL.

2. DATUK ZAINAL WAS BORN IN 1925 AND RECEIVED A B.A. (HONORS) FROM  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA IN 1955. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO SONS.

3. IN A 1969 REPORT, STATES EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT WHILE "OUTGOING AND ARTICULATE," DATUK ZAINAL WAS "SOFT SPOKEN" AND "NOT A LEADER." "HOWEVER," THEY ADD, "HE PROVED A SMOOTH AND ENERGETIC TRADER IN POLITICAL INFORMATION, AND WILL BE MISSED HERE PROFESSIONALLY AS WELL AS SOCIALLY. ZAINAL ABIDIN RESPONDED WARMLY TO SOCIAL AND

PROFESSIONAL APPROACHES BY THIS EMBASSY." AMBASSADOR, WHO ALSO  
KNEW ZAINAL ABIDIN DURING HIS SERVICE AS CHARGE IN SAIGON, CONFIRMS  
MOSCOW'S APPRAISAL OF THE MAN.

4. EMBASSY MANILA MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON HIS PERFORMANCE AS  
AMBASSADOR THERE.  
MILLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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